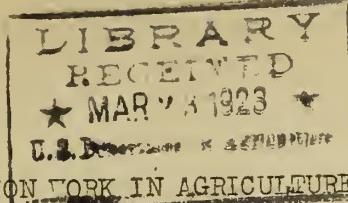


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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating

States Relations Service, Office of
Cooperative Extension Work
Washington, D. C.

ORGANIZATION OF CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS IN ROOM IMPROVEMENT

Gertrude L. Warren

Club leaders are finding that girls, especially of high school age, are intensely interested in having rooms of their own which they may furnish as they like. In too many instances heretofore, little effort has been made to give the farm girl a place where she may arrange her possessions and to which she may invite her friends. During the past few years, however, girls all over the country have awakened to the possibilities of remedying such conditions through their own efforts.

In this club demonstration centered in the girls' own room, club girls soon learn and are able to demonstrate how to plan a simple, attractive room, how to eliminate undesirable furnishings, how to select and arrange furnishings, how to make the best use of what they already have, how to spend money wisely for new furnishings, and how to care for their rooms.

It is believed that this demonstration in the improvement of the girl's own room will give a truer appreciation of values and so help to raise the standard of living and increase the general pleasure and comfort of all members of the farm family. Moreover, it is believed that such clubs, commonly known in some sections as "Own Your Own Room" clubs, are doing for the farm girl what the agricultural clubs are doing for the farm boys in developing a sense of responsibility and ownership and that they will create a fuller appreciation of farm life among rural young people by making country life more attractive and comfortable.

The following material has been prepared in response to requests from the States regarding the conduct of room improvement club work. It should be considered merely as suggestive of what may be done and need not be followed in its entirety when making or revising club programs for the use of organized community groups.

SOME PRACTICES TO BE DEMONSTRATED

- (1) Planning a simple attractive room.
- (2) Eliminating undesirable furnishings.
- (3) Selecting neutral floor and wall coverings.
- (4) Arranging furnishings.
- (5) Repairing and refinishing furniture.

- (6) Refinishing floors and wood work.
- (7) Rug-making.
- (8) Selecting new furniture.
- (9) Making furnishings such as curtains, bed spreads, bureau scarfs, etc.
- (10) Selecting and hanging pictures.

A State agent writes, "Through the making of artistic furnishings for the bed-room, we are teaching the principles of sewing." This is one phase of the work; another is the renovation of the furniture where that is desirable, and where furnishings are meager, the making of furniture as window seats and dressing tables out of boxes. Such work gives an excellent reason for a visit to the home, where the agent can study with the girl the arrangement of the furniture, the pictures on the walls, and other phases of the room improvement work, helping the club girl accordingly. When the canning season comes, the girls often take the home pantry and agree to put into it not less than fifty containers of fruits and vegetables. Many of these same girls also are planting ornamental shrubs about the yard. It has been easy to carry them from interior to exterior home beautification. You can readily see how this program of work, centered in the home, continues to grow."

SUGGESTIVE CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Each club member should:

- (1) Plan what improvements can be made in the room in a certain period of time, taking into consideration what is already available, what can be refinished or remodeled, what must be bought and how much it will cost.
- (2) Make as much improvement as possible within the club year, giving reasons for each change made.
- (3) Make, remodel, refinish, or buy at least five articles or pieces of furniture for the room.
- (4) Take entire care of room (bed-making, cleaning, ventilating, care of closets and dresser drawers).
- (5) Attend club meetings.
- (6) Keep a record of improvements and from it make a narrative report.
- (7) Show two girls or adults, not club members, how to make some improvement in their rooms, or give one public demonstration.
- (8) Make an exhibit.

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Several States, in which the work has been very successful, require that club girls make at least three of the following furnishings:

Dresser scarf.
Curtains.
Table runner.
Coverings for box furniture.
Bedspread.
Luncheon set.
Napkins.
Pillow slips.
Sheets.
Towels.
Rag rugs.

SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS

- (1) What are the most important health considerations for a bed-room?
- (2) What articles of furniture are absolutely essential to a bed-room?
- (3) What color scheme would be best adapted to your own room? For example, the walls and woodwork may be already finished; in such case you may have to adapt the rest of the furnishings to them or you may have some very attractive and valuable pieces of furniture around which you may be able to construct your color harmony.
- (4) What should be the relation between the colors of the floor, walls, and ceiling?
- (5) What qualities are needed in the finish and covering for a bed-room floor?
- (6) In what different ways may the walls of the bed-room be finished?
- (7) What kinds of material should you use for the curtains of your bed-room windows? Why should they always be of washable materials?
- (8) What kinds of pictures are suitable for bed-rooms?
- (9) If you lack space for hanging or folding away your clothes, what can you make for this purpose?
- (10) In making up the bed, what coverings are necessary? How much longer than your mattress should your sheets be? Why are woolen blankets preferable to more quilts for warmth? How many sheets and pillow cases should be provided for each bed?

SUGGESTIVE OUTLINE FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CLUB ROOM

This information should be accompanied by two floor plans of room indicating arrangements of furnishings before the improvement was made and afterwards.

	Before improvement was made	After improvement was made
(1) Dimensions	(a) Length _____ (b) Width _____ (c) Height _____	
(2)	Number of doors and closets _____	
(3) Walls	(a) Paint _____ Kind _____ Color _____ (b) Paper _____ Design (Plain _____ (Striped _____ (Large or small _____ (All-over figure _____ Color _____	
(4) Floor	(a) Unfinished _____ (b) Finished _____ (Painted _____ (Stained _____ (Varnished _____ (Waxed _____ (Oiled _____ (c) Color _____ (d) Carpet or rugs _____ (Design _____ (Color _____	
(5) Woodwork:	(a) Finish (stained; painted) _____ (b) Color _____	
(6) Windows:	(a) Number _____ (b) Exposure _____ (c) Size and kind _____ (d) Curtains _____	
(7) Furniture:	(a) General character (heavy, ornate, simple) _____ (b) Finish (natural wood; paint) _____ (c) Color _____	
(8) Pictures:	(a) Number _____ (b) Kind - photographs, prints, etc. _____ (c) Hanging and arrangement _____	

IMPORTANT PHASES OF THE WORK

- (1) The rooms of the club members should be given real demonstrational value through club tours, photographs, and publicity. An effort should be made to interest the other girls of the community and their mothers.
- (2) Club demonstrators should obtain the help of any persons skilled in some particular phase of the work - for example, painters, paper-hangers, cabinet makers and salesmen from local stores.
- (3) As much illustrative material as possible should be made available to club members. In addition, if possible, traveling exhibits should be sent to local leaders.
- (4) At least two conferences for local leaders should be held during the year.

SCORING AND JUDGING WORK

Each home improvement club program should include some work in scoring and judging the work done. Such scoring helps to create a higher standard of workmanship. It increases the members' powers of observation and makes them quick to detect errors in their own work. Scoring should precede judging in the club program. Each club member should be furnished with a score card. The following is suggestive.

Scorecard for Judging the Work of "Own Your Room" Club Members*

In scoring, account should be taken of the special difficulties presented by the original character and furnishings of the room.

	Team number.	Perfect score Per cent	Judges score Per cent
(1) Healthfulness and comfort	35		
Ventilation and lighting.			
Choice and arrangement of furniture.			
Convenient storage places.			
Ease of care.			
(2) Attractive appearance	25		
Use of color			
Choice of floor and wall finishes and coverings			
Choice and arrangement of furniture			
Choice and arrangement of minor furnishings.			
(3) Quality of workmanship in refinishing, making and caring for room and contents	20		
(4) Economy in the use of materials, money and time	20		
Total score	100		
Date _____	Name of judge _____		

*Prepared by the Office of Home Economics, States Relations Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

THE LIVING ROOM

In some States, club girls who have improved their own rooms to their satisfaction, are now, in cooperation with their mothers, improving the living room of the farm home. The following scorecard may prove helpful.

SCORECARD FOR LIVING ROOM*

(1) Stationary features of the room	30
<u>Size</u>	2
(Is it suitable to the needs of the family?)	
<u>Lighting</u>	4
(Is it healthful, convenient, attractive?)	
<u>Heating</u>	4
(Is it adequate for health and comfort? Is it convenient?)	
<u>Ventilation</u>	4
(Is it adequate for health?)	
<u>Screening</u>	4
(Does it insure health and comfort?)	
<u>Walls and ceiling</u>	4
(Is the finish suitable and attractive? How does the color affect the lighting and other features of the room?)	
<u>Floor</u>	4
(Is the finish or covering durable, attractive, in keeping with the room as a whole, and convenient to clean?)	
<u>Woodwork</u>	4
(Is the finish attractive and suitable?)	
(2) Furnishings	50
<u>Furniture</u>	20
(Does it provide for the needs of all members of the family?)	
Is it suitable in color, design, and finish?)	
<u>Curtains and hangings</u>	5
(Do they add to the comfort and healthfulness of the room, or do they shut out too much light and air? Are they attractive and easy to keep in order?)	
<u>Pictures, ornaments, and minor furnishings</u>	5
(Do they represent the tastes and interests of the family?)	
Do they add to the beauty and comfort of the room?)	
<u>Arrangement</u>	10
(Is it convenient for both use and care of the room? Is it attractive and reasonable? Is there unity?)	
<u>Coloring</u>	10
(Does it harmonize with the walls, ceiling, floors and wood-work? Is the general effect restful and cheerful?)	
(3) Cleanliness and order	20
(How do they affect the healthfulness, comfort, convenience and attractive appearance of the room?)	
TOTAL	100

* Prepared by the Office of Home Economics, States Relations Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

CLUB RECORD AND REPORT

Club members should keep a record of all improvements made, costs, estimated value, and number of hours of work in an "Own Your Own Room" club book.

Suggested Form for Keeping Individual Records.

Work done	: Dates of working:	: Actual cost	: Labor - hours	: Estimated value.
Total	:	:	:	:

Total number of household furnishings made or refinished _____

Total value of articles made or refinished _____

Total cost of articles made or refinished _____

Total number of rooms improved _____

Total number of public team demonstrations given _____

Total amount of work done in beautifying home surroundings (planting shrubs, flowers, trees and looking after lawns.) _____

CLUB STORY

The following may be suggestive to club members:

"Record in your 'Own Your Own Room' club book everything that will be of interest when writing your club story. Use all the aids you can find in magazines and papers to make your book and story interesting and valuable. Samples of suitable materials and those actually chosen will help considerably in this connection. Remember your chief aim is to make the most improvement in your own room rather than to try to excel the work of some other club member."

SUGGESTIONS FOR LIST OF ENTRIES AT COMMUNITY, COUNTY, AND STATE FAIRS

Class No. - - - - -

Home improvement.

For the greatest improvement made in the furnishing of a club member's room.

A photograph of the room before the work is undertaken and another after the improvements are completed must accompany the exhibit, or sketches of the ground plan of arrangement before and after the improvements. The exhibit should consist of these photographs or plans and furnishings, such as curtains, dresser or table scarfs, towels, sheets, pillow cases, bed spreads, furniture, rag rugs, etc. At least five articles should be exhibited exclusive of the photographs or plans shown.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Lot No. Girl's room			
Score for exhibit:			
General appearance of exhibit	15		
Perfection of articles submitted	15		
Suitability of articles to purpose	15		
Beauty of design and harmony of color	10		
Effective use of money	10		
Effective use of time	10		
Improvement made (determined by photographs or plan of arrangement before and after changes).....	25		
	100		

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB MEETINGS

A formal business meeting of the club should be held at least once a month. Begin and close the meeting promptly. Have it conducted according to parliamentary practice. Special plans or announcements of the club should be made at the meeting. When the secretary calls the roll, the members may respond with various reports of the work accomplished since the last meeting. If a record of this kind is kept throughout the demonstration, clubs will have interesting data to give in their reports. At the close of the formal business meeting, the clubs may take up the subject-matter program. Such a program may include individual and team demonstrations followed by a practical and helpful discussion on some phase of the room improvement club work. The third part of the program, the recreation period, should not be neglected.

Suggested Programs for Club Meetings

I. Business session.

- Call to order Marion Bronson, Pres.
- Roll call Ann Foster, Secretary.
- Minutes of last meeting Ann Foster, Secretary.
- Reports of committees
- Unfinished business
- New business Plan visit to Williams' store to see furnishings.

II. Practical work.

Discussion - Definite plans for each room Miss Beister, County extension agent.

Demonstration - Eliminating undesirable furnishings --Miss Sayles, local club leader.

Demonstration - How to make an attractive bureau cover. . . . Lena Jones, member.

Demonstration - Floor and wall coverings. . . . Miss Sayles, local club leader.

Demonstration - Color schemes for rooms Miss Sayles, local club leader.

III Plan of work to be done at home - Draw a floor and wall plan of room and make a plan for improving it giving reasons and approximate costs.

IV Recreation - In charge of Jean Hixon, Eleanor Howe, and Alta Green.

Piano solo Irma Nelson, member

Club songs and games.

Adjournment.

Second Meeting.

I Business session.

New business - club hike.

II Practical work

Demonstration - Refinishing floors Mr. Brigham.

Demonstration - How to arrange furnishings Mr. Brigham.

Talk on uses of cretonnes, cheese cloth, flour sacking, etc. . . Miss Sayles,
local club leader.

Demonstration - Inexpensive hat boxes : Mabel Hall, member.

III Plan of work to be done at home - To be decided in consultation with local leader.

IV Recreation - In charge of Irma Nelson, Ann Foster, and Marion Doon.

Adjournment.

Third Meeting.

I Business session.

New business - Visit to Mrs. Bayne's home.

II Practical work.

Possibilities of a girl's room Miss Jones, State agent.

Demonstration - How to select new furniture . . Miss Beister, county extension

Demonstration - Refinishing walls Mr. Blackstone. agent.

III Plan of work to be done at home - To be decided in consultation with local club leader.

IV Recreation - In charge of program committee.

Song - Four leaf Clovers Marion Doon, member.

Reading, An 'If' for Girls Marion Doon, member.

Games and club songs.

Adjournment.

Fourth Meeting

- I. Business session.
New business - Club festival.
- II. Practical work.
Automobile tour to visit rooms and stores, in accordance with suggestions by the girls, club leader, and the county extension agent.
- III. Plan of work to be done at home - See that records are up to date. Plan with leader next step in improving room.
- IV Recreation - In charge of Marion Bronson, Agnes Murray, Mabel Hall.

Fifth Meeting

- I Business session.
New business - Mother's Day.
- II Practical work.
Discussion of tour Miss Sayles, local club leader.
Talk on care of room Irma Nelson, member
Demonstration - Selection and hanging pictures, Helen Held, member.
- III Plan of work to be done at home - Put at least two recommended suggestions received on club tour into practice in your own home.
- IV Recreation - In charge of program committee
Reading - Knee Deep in June Ethel Townsend, member.
Club songs and games.
Adjournment.

Sixth Meeting
(Entertain mothers)

- I Business session.
New business - Entertainment of the Johnstown "Own Your Own Room" club.
- II Practical work
Demonstration - Refinishing furniture , , . . . Mr. Johnson.
Demonstration - Making curtains Mary Hill, member.
Judging of exhibits of club members.
Discussions on rag rugs led by Leta Edwards, member.
- III Plan of work to be done at home - Decided in consultation with leader.
- IV Recreation - In charge of Ann Foster, Sadie Wilkinson.
Reading, Country Girls' Creed Emma Norris, member.
Club songs and games.
Adjournment.

Seventh Meeting

- I Business session.
New business - County and State plans.
- II Practical work
Demonstration - Ways of caring for clothes in room - Miss Sayles, local club
Demonstration - Pillow and cushion covers. . Alta Holmes, member. (leader.
Demonstration - How to make an attractive waste basket - Ann Foster, member.
- III Plan of work to be done at home - Decided in consultation with leader.
- IV Recreation - In charge of Marion Bronson, Enid Hall, Leta Edwards.
Song - Hark, Hark, the Lark. Winifred Smith, member.
Games and club songs.
Adjournment.

Eighth Meeting.

- I Business session
- II Practical work
Tour of all rooms; take pictures and score each according to scorecard.
Miss Beister, county extension agent in charge.
- IV Recreation - In charge of program committee
Picnic supper at the home of Sadie Wilkinson, member.
Games and songs.
Adjournment.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

The county extension agent should:

- (1) Assume full responsibility for the organization and follow-up work.
- (2) See that local club leaders are secured for all work organized. Such leaders may be interested women of the community having a practical knowledge of the work to be done, or former club members.
- (3) Send circulars, blanks, and other club literature to local leaders to be distributed to club members.
- (4) Hold conferences for local leaders when necessary. Select place for conferences carefully.
- (5) Call on specialists from the State agricultural college and on home economics teachers to give assistance in subject-matter to local leaders of the county when necessary.

- (6) Secure traveling club exhibits to be used by the clubs of the county in establishing standards regarding their work and in obtaining new ideas for future work.
- (7) Visit local leaders and their clubs as often as possible to give encouragement, offer suggestions for improvement, furnish information concerning what other clubs are doing, take photographs of club members at work, and obtain as many club stories as possible for publicity purposes.
- (8) See, if possible, that the club work undertaken for the year by each club in the county meets the requirements of the standard club and that the publicity given it conveys the main objectives of the work.
- (9) Arrange for county round-ups, club tours, exhibits, festivals, county club meetings, and community and county fairs. See to it that these are used to spread the influence of the room improvement club demonstrations underway.
- (10) Show local leaders how their clubs can cooperate with the county extension organization in giving public demonstrations and in taking part in general community activities.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A LOCAL CLUB LEADER

The local club leader should:

- (1) Develop responsibility and leadership among the club girls.
- (2) Attend all meetings of the club.
- (3) Distribute to club members promptly circulars and other information furnished by the county extension agent.
- (4) See that the use of blanks and supplies as well as the follow-up instructions are fully understood by the club members before the work is started.
- (5) See that there is arranged a club year of activities, meeting the requirements of a standard club.
- (6) See that each member is properly equipped with all that is necessary for a successful demonstration.
- (7) Attend all leaders' meetings called by county extension agent or community leader.
- (8) Visit the homes of the club members to give aid and encouragement.
- (9) Assist the club members to do work of real demonstrational value to others of the community as well as to themselves.
- (10) Encourage the secretary to keep all records and reports up-to-date.
- (11) Assist in selecting and training public demonstration teams.
- (12) Assist the club in arranging for local exhibits in store windows for sales, hikes, picnics, club tours, club festivals, and other special club meetings.

THE SUNSET ROOM
(An example of room improvement club work)

By Joy Gann, Albemarle County, Va.

When Miss Dunn and Miss Burruss first helped me plan my room I thought I could never, never, do all the work we decided was needed. Then I clinched my teeth together and said, "I will do it," and the very next day I began.

I started filling holes in the walls with plaster of Paris and there seemed to be at least a thousand. There was a crack about three inches wide extending almost all the way around the side door, which I found necessary to fill with lime mortar. At last I finished the holes and while they were drying I filled the holes in the floor with putty. Every nail head had sunken out of sight, so after I finished filling them the floor had quite a speckled appearance.

It seemed the walls had once been a pale blue, but had since been given a thin coat of whitewash through which the blue still showed. I sandpapered part of the whitewash off and applied a thick coat of wall paint. I had on hand a box of a well-known paint, but as I desired to paint the walls a light orange I decided I would experiment a little. I dissolved thoroughly a package of orange dye in the water with which I mixed the wall paint and the result was just the shade I desired. My friends say it is the color of a restful sunset. Hence, I have named my room, "The Sunset Room."

I painted the ceiling with the original cream.

I then began on the woodwork, which was a brilliant green. I found it necessary to apply three coats of ivory paint before I could obtain the result I wished.

I also gave the rocking chair, which was finished in light oak, two coats of ivory paint.

On the straight chair I used varnish of the same kind I used on the single bed.

I was at a complete loss to know what to do with the fireplace. I shudder yet to think of how it looked; a black hole in the wall, nothing less.

At last I found courage to tackle it, and the first thing I did after cleaning it out was to wash the soot from the broken brick in the back and sides. I then took up half the hearth which had sunken about an inch below the floor level and by putting sand underneath, raised it back to the proper position. Brother then helped me mix some cement and together we filled the holes in the back and sides. Those in the front and hearth I filled alone.

After it had dried thoroughly I painted all a dark brown. A few days later, with a slit cut in a piece of cardboard to keep the edges

straight, I penciled it in ivory and, with the andirons polished and a few logs of wood inside, I had a regular "night before Christmas" fireplace.

After washing the floor I painted the speckled places brown. When they were dry I went over the entire floor with boiled linseed oil. Later I gave it a thick coat of varnish, but since it was in such a bad condition in the beginning, the oil and varnish were not enough, so I gave it a final coat of varnish after I finished all the other work in the room.

I thought the window was perfect, but upon close examination I found a cracked glass and I had quite a hard time making the new one fit and the putty stick.

The last thing I painted was the built-in wardrobe in the corner and some coat hangers to use in it.

After that I was ready to begin on the draperies. For the side screen door I selected a white voile with a brown dot. On the wardrobe, side window curtains, and rocking chair, I used medium weight cretonne having a brown, orange, and ivory design. For the inside window curtains I used unbleached domestic, hemstitching the hems. Sister hemstitched the sheets for the single bed and one for the double bed, while I hemstitched the pillow cases and hemmed the other sheet for the double bed and made the unbleached domestic counterpanes and bolster slips. On these I used a butterfly design in orange, putting it on with black thread and finishing the edges of the bolster slips in orange and black.

I made three rag rugs of varying sizes, the rags of which I dyed brown and orange.

Last, I arranged the clothing neatly in the drawers and wardrobe, went over all the furniture carefully with furniture polish, put every article in its correct place, filled my yellow flower bowl with nasturtiums and put my three rugs on the floor. Then I stood off to survey my handiwork and behold, my Sunsuit Room was complete.